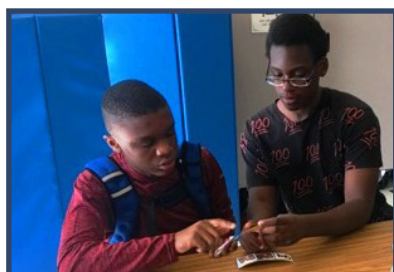




VALLEY COLLABORATIVE

Volume 6, Issue 2 News for the extended Valley Collaborative community Spring 2018

At the Heart of Valley's Mission: Giving Back



We are: Mentoring

■ Page 3: Valley Middle School students are mentoring their peers, helping them both in and out of the classroom.



We are: Generous

■ Page 5: Site 1 students delivered more than 250 pounds of food to local food banks.



We are: Community

■ Page 7: Site 3 students volunteered at the Central Food Ministry in Lowell, MA.

Dear Valley Collaborative family and friends:

The notion of 'giving back' is at the heart of Valley's mission. The work we accomplish with our students and the adults in our DDS and MRC programs is centered around the belief that helping others is a noble way for people to reach their full potential. Connecting our learners with others, both inside Valley as well as in his/her greater community, is paramount for lifelong success. Our staff is committed to fostering these connections to ensure all those who attend Valley become responsible contributing members of society.

In the spirit of giving back, Valley's District Leadership team, along with Mr. Timothy Piwowar, Chairman of Valley's Board of Directors, and M.A.S.S. Leadership Consultant Dr. Anthony Bent presented the "Valley Reform Story" at the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence National Conference in Orlando, Florida this past November. Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence invited Valley to share our story. As well, we were asked to present an overview of the work that has been done to develop Valley's successful Trauma Sensitive Schools. Additionally, Dr. Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Reading Public Schools, has recently invited us to present at the Blueprint for Educational Excellence Spring Institute on Friday March 23, 2018



VALLEY COLLABORATIVE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DR. CHRIS A. SCOTT

hosted by Reading Public Schools and Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Enterprise Bank and the National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence conference for "giving back" - sponsoring our attendance in Orlando.

Through Valley Collaborative's District Improvement Planning process, the Valley "community," comprised of stakeholder groups throughout our member towns as well as members of our leadership team, identified building the capacity of our staff through customized professional development opportunities as a top priority in order to reach our full potential.

Valley Partnering with the Wish Project

In December, “The Magic of Christmas” arrived at Valley Collaborative. Thanks to our ongoing partnership with the Lowell Wish Project, many of our students/adults and those with whom they live with found gifts under their trees this year. This was the eighth year that Valley Collaborative enrolled as a partner agency with the Wish Project. In its inception, this endeavor started with a limited membership between Valley and the Wish Project to permit our social workers access to home goods and clothing for our students in need. As the needs of our population grew due to a variety of factors including the increase of homelessness, displacement, unemployment, and family disruptions, Valley increased our membership to

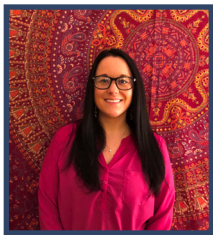
full access to the Wish Project. Dr. Scott has championed the cause of ensuring that our Individuals, both students and adults, maximize their learning potential by addressing the social, emotional, and physical barriers that interfere with an individual living life to the fullest.

What does this mean for Valley Individuals? No person should go without a bed and clothing. No family shall want for the everyday comforts of small appliances and household furniture. Each student will be provided a backpack and school supplies at the beginning of the school year. Lastly, the joy of waking up to gifts underneath the Christmas tree became a reality for many families that otherwise would

not have enjoyed this experience. In addition to the holidays, the Wish Project offers many events throughout the year to ensure basic needs are being met to individuals and families in need.

The season of giving did not end when the New Year began. Throughout the winter months, Valley Collaborative social workers can go to the Wish Project warehouse and obtain clothing, coats and blankets without an appointment. Providing for our Individuals basic needs ensures that people at Valley can focus on learning. If you know of an Individual in need or would like to contribute by donating, please talk to the social Worker in your Valley program about the Wish Project. ■

Clinical Corner: Community Connections



*By Jaclyn Squeglia, M. Ed, SAC,
LMHC*

Valley’s enrollment is comprised of students from communities spanning a large and diverse geographic area, including over 65 school districts throughout the Merrimack Valley and beyond. Often times, locating, identifying, and understanding therapeutic community services to support our students, Individuals, and families can be an overwhelming process.

Over the past eight years, Massachusetts has undergone a major systemic overhaul resulting in community-based services

becoming more accessible for families. This shift in focus is a result of both the Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment federal mandate as well as a resulting lawsuit which occurred in the Commonwealth, commonly known as the “Rosie D. case.” Because of this, Massachusetts reassembled its mental health system by incorporating intensive home-based services, including behavioral health screenings, assessments, case management, crisis intervention and in-home therapeutic supports by July 1, 2009. In order to meet this mandate, all Massachusetts state agencies were trained and protocols were released which outlined the future of child and family serving systems.

The Child Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI) was developed in response to the Rosie D. case and has become the integrative system that ensures policy implementation throughout the Commonwealth. “The

mission of CBHI is to strengthen, expand, and integrate Massachusetts state services into a comprehensive, community-based system of care, and to ensure that families and their children with significant behavioral, emotional, and mental health needs obtain the services necessary for success in home, school, and community, and throughout life” (CBHI-Guide Rev. 10/15). CBHI services encompass programs including outpatient therapy, in-home therapy, in-home behavioral services, mobile crisis intervention, structured outpatient addictions program, intensive care coordination, family support and training (family partners), and therapeutic mentoring.

To organize the multitude of services that are available to children and families, Massachusetts developed three clinical ‘hubs’: Outpatient Therapy, In-Home Therapy, and Intensive Care Coordination (ICC).

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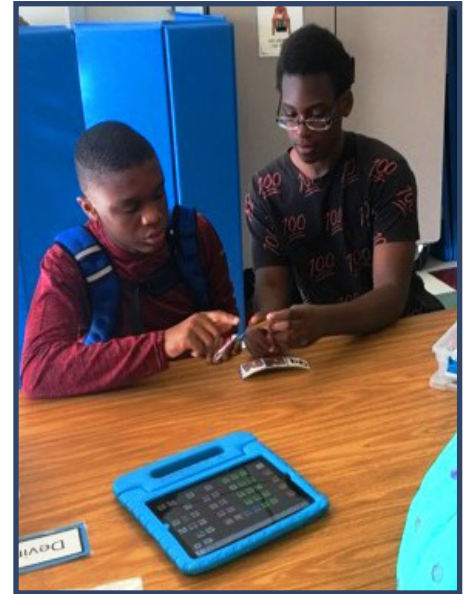
Valley Middle School: Students Helping Students

On any given day in the middle school you may walk by a classroom and see a student from one program helping a student from another program. Students who express an interest in working with other student populations are encouraged to volunteer in various classrooms within the Valley community. Students volunteer during cooking groups, fine motor skills groups, lunch and snack times, and even on community outings.

Sabian Edouard is a 7th grade student who expressed an interest in working in the middle school Intensive Special Needs - Autism Spectrum Disorder (ISN-ASD) classroom. After easily developing a nice working rapport with each of the five students in the ISN-ASD classroom, he is now a fixture during cooking class every other Monday. He also attends community trips with the class. When asked about his time in Susan Rawding's classroom, he expressed, "It's fun, I like working with them...watch-

ing Susan helped me to learn." Sabian helps the students to wash their hands, clean tables, and he sits with them while they work on certain tasks. Susan Rawding, ISN-ASD teacher, reported, "Sabian is a hard worker and really seems to connect with the students. He watches the staff and copies what they do to help the kids with activities. Sabian is a pleasure to work with, and we look forward to having him in the class."

Other students help out in Susan's classroom during the week, as well as in Shana Dunlevy's classroom. Shana reports, "Sometimes the students are more responsive to directives or help given from other students rather than from the staff." All of the students benefit from this interaction, and as positive relationships begin to develop it can be seen through a hello at lunchtime, a student bringing a chair over when the volunteer student arrives to help in the classroom, or a high five in the hallway. We look forward to continuing to



STUDENT SABIAN EDOUARD (LEFT) FROM DRACUT, HELPING DEVIN SHOMPOLE, FROM LOWELL, MAKE A CHOICE DURING BREAK TIME

expand upon this practice in the middle school. ■

Valley Elementary School: Students Giving Back All Year

The holiday season is one of our favorites at the Elementary school. The staff and students really take on the spirit of giving with our annual school wide activities; the Giving Tree, Holiday Fair and Polar Express day. The giving tree is an opportunity for staff to be able to participate in the lives of one of our children and get them a gift they can open during the holiday season.

Each year our counseling department puts together a tree with anonymous ornaments identifying students in need. We also held our 10th annual holiday fair at the

elementary school. It mirrors an activity many elementary schools do, making it a special event for our staff to put together for the students. Students were able to come in with a list of special people in their lives and pick out gifts. Staff and students from one of our oldest classes wrapped the gifts for our customers and delivered special packages for our kids to take home to family. We ended the 2017 calendar year with the Polar Express day where staff and students enjoy pajamas, hot cocoa and a little holiday spirit.

The students have also taken on some of the giving back spirit and

are moving it forward into 2018. Our elective classes were self-selected by students and votes were tallied for electives to include knitting, cooking and community service at the local animal shelter. The kids are hoping to combine their products from knitting class and cooking class to donate all of the end results to the Lowell or Nashua Humane Center. Valley Elementary School students are hoping to keep those animals warm and fed this cold winter. ■

STEM Students: Building Community in 3D

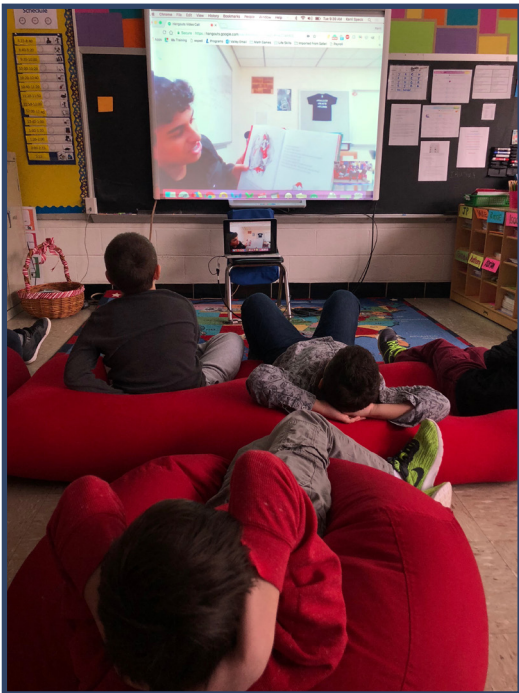
It's hard to believe the holiday break is behind us and we are in the second month of the new year. Since September, the "West Side" students from the Valley Transitional High School Site 2 and the students in Heather Mackay's classroom at Valley Elementary School have been working together. Every other week they collaborate on various academic and social skills activities which has proven to be an amazingly beneficial experience for

has also focused on building social skills and "friendships" through board games and holiday activities including gingerbread house building. Each activity was designed to meet the social emotional needs of both groups and have made such an impact on both sets of students.

With the recent push in the importance of STEM at Valley and throughout the Commonwealth, the 3D keychain design was an amazing demonstration of the power of collaboration and resources available to us. The "West Side" students learned the basics of 3D design using TinkerCad and brought over their expertise to our Elementary School students. Then, the "West Siders" partnered up with our Elementary School students and taught them the basics of the program, and eventually produced individualized name keychains. The high school students were able to return to Billerica and print the keychains at the STEM lab for the students; two weeks later the keychains were delivered and the Elementary School students felt so proud to be a part of something so cool.

A "West Sider" reflected on this new "community connection" and said, "I like working with them because they see things so much simpler, I make things so complicated. When I am with them it allows me to relax and take my mind off other things. I love going there."

Both groups of students look forward to the next opportunity to spend time together! ■



WESTSIDE STUDENT ROBERT GARCIA READING "HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS" TO HEATHER MACKAY'S ELEMENTARY CLASS THROUGH GOOGLE HANGOUT

all. Some of the highlights of these activities included; a fall themed scavenger hunt, reading activities, a nature hike, and creating and printing 3D keychain designs. This sense of community that has been created and fastened with students from two Valley programs



ELEMENTARY & WEST SIDE 3D PRINT PROJECT



Site 1: Learning Lessons in Generosity

Valley Collaborative students in Valley Transitional High School Site 1 spread holiday cheer this past season by giving back to local charities. Students raised awareness on social media platforms and by word of mouth to collect non-perishable food donations. The Greater Boston Food bank provides meals for over 140,000 people in need each month. Teachers and students from Valley delivered over 250 pounds of food, and those at the Bank were very appreciative of our efforts.

Before the start of holiday break, students bought presents for children at Lowell General hospital through our annual Giving Tree Fundraiser. Ultimately, Site 1 delivered 12 boxes of clothes and toys for kids in hopes of making their holiday season a little brighter.

At Valley, we are proud of the giving spirit and communal awareness that our students have demonstrated this year. While our staff knows that our students are kind, thoughtful young adults, it is important that the rest of the community views them in a similar light. Our Health and Wellness classes have focused on the importance of being charitable within the local community, and the holiday season presents a wonderful opportunity for our students to not only embrace a giving spirit, but more importantly see the real value in helping those who need it most. As we move forward we hope that our students, with staff support, continue to realize the importance of kindness and “giving back” as they transition into adulthood. ■

NICK LECLAIR, TRAVIS KETTNER, ANDREW DIBONA, DYLAN SWIMM, TIM BAGLEY WRIGHT, NOLAN SULLIVAN, WILLIAM LEVEN-SAILOR, NICKENLY TURRENNE, AND MATT MANFREDI AT THE GREATER BOSTON FOOD BANK AFTER DONATING 250 POUNDS OF FOOD



STUDENTS WILL LEVENSAIOR, TIM BAGLEY WRIGHT, AND NOLAN SULLIVAN LEARNING ABOUT EXACTLY WHERE THEIR DONATIONS WILL BE GOING DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON



SITE 1 STUDENTS NOLAN SULLIVAN AND NICKENLY TURRENNE UNLOADING DONATIONS AFTER THE HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Site 2: Focused on Charity and Cheer

During the holiday season, the students of Valley Transitional High School Site 2 looked to continue the tradition of giving back. Community Service has always been a part of the Site 2 program, but this past holiday season we saw an increase in the generosity of our students to their surrounding communities.

All three of our programs on Site 2 had students and staff attend and volunteer time to “Food for the World” in Lawrence, MA. Students were asked to help put together care packages of food for those in the area that were in need of assistance. Site 2 students were able to help the organization put together 100+ packages to help families during Thanksgiving, and enjoy a meal that otherwise would not have been possible.

On the “North Side” students recently made the trip over the border to Manchester, NH to volunteer their days for “Southern New Hampshire Services” organization. The group of nine students and three staff got to work putting together care packages of food that were delivered to seniors

in the area. Students were able to put together almost 100 packages and help them during this holiday season.

On the “Eastside” program, students and staff worked a toy drive in collaboration with Lawrence Firefighters and “Toys for Tots”. Students reached out at home and within the Valley Community. The effort of our students helped the foundation achieve their goal of delivering “a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters that will assist them in becoming responsible, productive, patriotic citizens.”

Over on the “West Side” students currently split up into multiple small groups to take on their community service endeavors. While groups leave the site to go to community based activities such as cleaning up local trails and parks, cooking breakfast for the Billerica Fire Department, or volunteering time to mentor our own elementary school students in Tynborough, a group of students have been here at 40 Linnell Circle helping clean and plant in the gardens around our building.

We would like to take the oppor-



MCKAYLA NIEVES AT FOOD FOR THE WORLD

tunity to thank the amazing work of these students, who continue to make us proud with their positive contributions to their surrounding communities. We would also like to thank the amazing teachers, social workers and aides on Site 2 for creating these opportunities, and for their continued unwavering support every day. Our kids are lucky to have you as mentors, role models, and friends. ■

Honors for Valley Faculty, Students

Valley Collaborative was honored to present at the 2017 National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Conference in Orlando this past November. Craig Martin, Reading School District Assistant Superintendent and board member of the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, invited Valley to present to this national audience on the difficult reform work and ensuing leadership development that has paved the way to excellent programming for our students. Valley’s team of presenters included Dr. Chris A. Scott, Valley Collaborative Executive Director,

Mr. Timothy Piwowar, Billerica Public Schools Superintendent and Valley Collaborative Board Chair, Dr. Anthony Bent, M.A.S.S. Assistant Superintendent Leadership Seminar Facilitator & previous Superintendent of Schools & Valley Collaborative Board Member, Ms. Joia Mercurio, Valley Collaborative Assistant Executive Director, Ms. Kari Morrin, Valley Collaborative Director of Student & Adult Services, and Mr. Sean Glavin, Valley Collaborative Director of Finance & Operations.



2017 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE IN ORLANDO” PICTURED ARE: DR. ANTHONY BENT; MS. KARI MORRIN; MS. JOIA MERCURIO; MR. SEAN GLAVIN; DR. CHRIS SCOTT; AND MR. TIM PIWOWAR

Site 3: Building Community, In School and Out

Valley Transitional High School Site 3 is focused on being a community within our school and giving back to our bigger community outside of Valley. Throughout the year and as part of our programming, all classes in Site 3 get together for various collective projects and activities. This past fall Site 3 had their 3rd annual Thanksgiving meal. For this meal, each class pitched in to make dishes to be served. All students and staff came together to enjoy the meal gathered around a very long table in our main hallway. It was definitely a beautiful sight to see! This meal has become such a great social event to get students to intermingle with each other from different classrooms and a way for all the classes to become more of one cohesive school community.

Site 3 also gives back to the community. For over ten years Site 3 has been volunteering at the Central Food Ministry in Lowell, MA. The Central Food Ministry is a non-profit organization that provides food, clothing and supplies to less fortunate residents of Lowell. Every week a group of our students go to help stock and organize supplies. Not only do the students provide an amazing service to the Central Food Ministry, they have learned the valuable lessons of pre-vocational skills, teamwork, social skills and the importance of giving back to the community. It has become a rewarding working relationship for everyone involved, and has helped to expand our community to many more. ■



MARY-ALICE JACKSON,
CHELMSFORD AND
DERIC LAJOIE, DRACUT
PUTTING AWAY CANS

STEPHANIE PELTIER,
DRACUT, JUST FINISHED
PUTTING AWAY THE LOAVES
OF BREAD



RAVEN WILBER,
CHELMSFORD, EXCITED
ABOUT THE DESSERTS



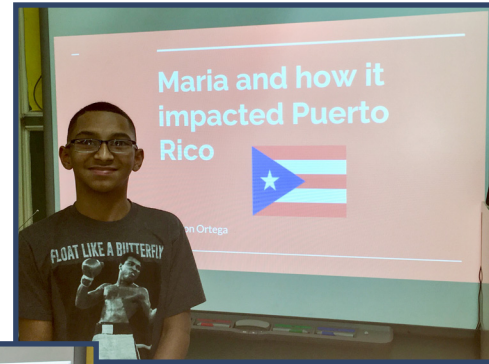
STUDENTS INTERACTING AND
TAKING A BREAK FROM
ENGAGING IN THANKSGIVING
TABLE ETIQUETTE LESSON



For 6th Graders, a World of Literacy

The students in Jen Bergeron's 6th grade classroom for their Writer's Workshop informational writing unit did multimedia presentations on world issues. Each student did research on a world issue that they felt strongly about. Students then presented information on their chosen world issue giving information, background knowledge on, what you can do to help and how their knowledge on the issue has also changed them. ■

EXARION ORTEGA



JAYDON CANALES



OWEN MCMAHON



MATTHEW ROY

At the Heart of Valley's Mission: Giving Back

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As such, Valley's three Executive/Directors have engaged in professional development through M.A.S.S. Assistant Superintendent Leadership Seminar (ASLS) series, developed by Dr. Anthony Bent and Dr. Christine Francis.

This series focuses on building leadership capacity and connecting assistant superintendents in similar job-alike groups. The ASLS series meets seven times a year to cover a wide variety of leadership topics as they study text, share resources, and reflect on his/her personal practice. I am honored that Dr. Anthony Bent and Dr. Christine Francis have graciously invited me to share my leadership story with the next generation

of Massachusetts superintendents on March 7, 2018 - another great way to give back.

I am inspired by the work that our team accomplishes on a daily basis - work that is rooted in the value of giving back.

My best to you always,

Chris

Chris A. Scott, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Adult Services: Recognizing Vocational Independence and Excellence

The Today & Tomorrow program had a very productive second quarter of the year. Our ongoing theme remains — Individuals Giving Back to the Community. As previously mentioned in the last newsletter, CBDS raised over \$175.00 for Breast Cancer awareness. The funds were donated to the Cancer Center at Lowell General Hospital. The treatment center was very appreciative of our efforts and we look forward to working with them in the future. We received many comments about the design of our ribbons and how unique they were.

In November, Valley Adults thought it would be a nice idea to honor our Veterans for their years of service and dedication to our country. We have many Individuals who have family members in the military and this cause was something that was important to them. They wrote handwritten letters to members of the military and also handed out over 100 poppy flowers to the local Veterans here in Billerica and also at D'Youville Manor in Lowell. Individuals also started collecting clothes for younger children. This initiative was called #givingtuesday. We col-

lected clothes to donate to Catie's Closet and dropped them off every Tuesday for the month of November.

In December, the Individuals and staff came up with three seasonal drives that they wanted to target harder to contribute to our greater community. The first was collecting for Toys For Tots. Over the course of the month we collected over 107 toys for area kids during this Holiday Season. We dropped them off at our local fire department and they also met two newly recruited Marines. Our Individuals got a tour of the fire department and spoke with the local firemen. The second was collecting food to donate to our local food pantry in Lowell. Yet again our Individuals and staff collected more than four large boxes of various foods to be donated. Finally, our CBDS program created over 200 handmade ornaments for the Holiday Season. They were eager to spread the Christmas spirit throughout the Collaborative. They generated over \$200.00 in sales. These funds will be used to



CRYSTAL SURPLUS, DEREK PACARO, ALINE HAUNTON, MAGGIE KING, BRANDON MCHUGH, MARK FITTS, CHRIS SACKOS AND JENNA MASSOTA. STAFF: STEVE HEASLY, BRENDA GRAY, MELISSA ALESA, JOE VENSUS AND LOWELL GENERAL HOSPITAL STAFF

help us offset costs associated with our Adult Recreation Program.

Our Individuals and staff in the Today & Tomorrow program have a very strong sense of community and a desire to give back. We are always impressed with no matter what we ask our Individuals to do; they rise to the occasion and are willing to support their local community. They strive to be included and focus on doing what is right while showing acts of kindness, warmth and care. We are eager to continue this focus as we look forward to the springtime. ■



MAGGIE KING, MICHAEL KEMPTON, DENNIS WALSH, MATT PETERSON, ALINE HAUNTON, AMANDA BLANEY, KEN BONNELL, BOBBY RICHARDS & DEREK PACARO. VALLEY STAFF: MELISSA ALESA, JEN LENNON, APRIL FIORENTINO & MEMBERS OF THE BILLERICA FIRE DEPARTMENT



MICHAEL KEMPTON AND CAPTAIN STEPHEN KENNEDY

Clinical Corner

»continued from page 2

Hub-service providers are responsible for coordinating care, collaborating with other agencies, and for developing a treatment plan. Hubs are also committed to ensuring that comprehensive behavioral health screenings are being completed and updated, including the use of the Child and Adolescent Strengths and Needs (CANS) assessment.

The CANS assessment is required by clinical staff working with children and families to document initial assessment needs and to formulate the treatment plan goals. The CANS organizes pertinent information and is a guide to track progress. The CANS can also be used to determine whether or not the child meets the criteria for social emotional disorders. The CANS is effective when appropriately shared amongst providers and is to be updated every 90 days.

What do all these services mean?

Outpatient Therapy is utilized to treat various behavioral, emotional, psychological and/or substance-related concerns which have impacted the child's/youth's functioning in at least one area of their life. It typically takes place in a mental-health clinicians office and may include individual, family, and group therapy.

In-Home Therapy (IHT) is an intensive, flexible service which provides children/youth and their families therapy in their home, school, or other community setting. The In-Home Therapy (IHT) team typically consists of a mental-health clinician and a paraprofessional who work collaboratively with a family to develop a treatment plan, identify community resources, establish routines, determine family/child strengths, create methods to appropriately resolve conflicts, and improve communication skills throughout the family unit.

In-Home Behavioral Services (IHBS) is a service that

is similar to the IHT team and care delivery model. In-Home Behavioral Services (IHBS) is aimed at providing services to children/youth who present with challenging behavioral needs. A Behavioral Therapist and a Behavior Management Monitor work collaboratively with the child and family to develop a behavior management plan that is practiced and implemented in the home, community, and/or in school.

Mobile Crisis Intervention (MCI) is the integral part of an Emergency System Program (ESP) which provides 24/7 emergency care to children and youth under the age of 20 who are in a state of psychiatric crisis.

The MCI team is available to evaluate and treat a child/youth in their home, school, in an ESP office, or other community setting to avoid going to the emergency room for care. MCI may include a psychiatric consultation or psychopharmacological evaluation and may offer referrals to community-based providers for ongoing care. MCI teams are able to stay connected with families for seven days post-evaluation to support children/youth and their families.

Structured Outpatient Addictions Program (SOAP) is a short-term day or evening program for adolescents struggling with a substance-related disorder or co-occurring mental-health diagnosis.

Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) is an intensive, individualized care-planning and management service for children/youth with a social emotional disorder. The ICC uses a 'wraparound' approach and develops an Individual Care Plan (ICP) with input from the Care Planning Team which includes therapists, involved school staff, social workers, community agencies involved with the child/youth or family, and their natural supports. The ICP is reviewed at least monthly and is the guide for the other hub-related services provided to the child/youth and family. The ICC seeks to assure that treatment is highly individualized, child and fam-

ily centered and strength based.

Family Support and Training (Family Partners) is an individual with lived experience as the caretaker of a child or youth struggling with a social emotional disorder who is able to provide support to families and assist them in navigating the CBHI system. A Family Partner may also collaborate with MCI teams to work with families and children/youth in times of crisis.

Therapeutic Mentoring (TM) is a service designed to pair a child/youth with an adult mentor who can guide them through meeting the goals of their hub-developed treatment plan as well as provide the child/youth with opportunities to increase their social, communication, and life skills. This one-on-one service also allows the child to access their home, community, school, recreational activities, and other social settings to gain safety and independence.

How can you access services?

Families may either be referred to a hub-service provider by a professional (i.e. PCP, school, state agency, advocate, etc.) or families may find their own providers by calling their insurance provider or accessing www.mabhaccess.com. Although, a hub-service provider must be the sole referral for Family Support and Training (Family Partner), In-Home Behavioral Services, and Therapeutic Mentoring services.

In Massachusetts there are more than 30 Community Service Agencies (CSAs) that work directly with the catchment areas of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and serve as the hub providers.

For our students and families in New Hampshire, visit www.nn4youth.org for information on the services provided in your communities.

More information about CHBI services can be found by visiting: www.mass.gov/masshealth/cbhi. If you would like to read more about the Rosie D. case, visit: www.rosied.org or www.masslegalservices.org. ■

Facilities Report: Building for Success

Valley's Operations and Facilities Department entered the new year full steam ahead connecting our community of students together to access even more.

On December 1st the window contractors began the installation of 94 new windows at the Collaborative. The windows have made a huge impact on the optics of the exterior of the building, but more importantly on the interior. Each window will now have the capability to open - allowing fresh air and ventilation in the building. The project wrapped up around mid January.

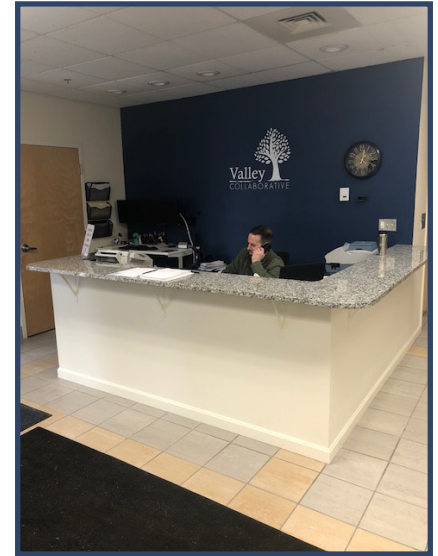


A LED BUBBLE TUBE NOW INSTALLED IN VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL'S SENSORY ROOM

Along with new windows we have also introduced a brand new look at the 40 Linnell Circle reception area. After a successful demo and remodel of the 25 Linnell Circle reception area, we took that same open concept look and applied it to the reception area at 40 Linnell. The reception area now includes: a wrap around granite countertop on both the interior and exterior of the reception area, new paint, and the removal of the glass casing around the desk. The new and improved reception area was unveiled when students and staff returned from Holiday Break.

Between the months of October and November we had all 45 transportation vehicles 7D inspected. We also recently had our fire inspection as well as our building inspection and passed with flying colors. Another safety feature that was added to the 40LC building was the installation of an Automatic Door Operator at the front entrance and vestibule. The auto doors have received a lot of positive feedback. Thank you to all the staff for their cooperation during this time.

We recently helped with the launch of the School Store in Valley Transitional High School Site 1. Justin Gulinello took the lead on this and did a great job with installing the storefront glass casing as well as the gridwall to give it a true "school store" feel. The staff and students are mak-



THE REMODELED RECEPTION AREA AT 40 LINNELL CIRCLE

ing great use of the new space.

During the month of January, Valley Middle School's "sensory room" was our main focus. This room will help students regulate his/her bodies mood and behavior. Some of the items we have installed in this room include: projectors, wireless bluetooth speakers, wall mats, click-in-flooring, bubble towers and many more. The "blue room" projects are being completed over the next few weeks.

At the Valley Elementary School in Tyngsboro, our projects have brought a renewed sense of community to the office spaces. We recently mounted a new TV in the renovated Conference Room. Sandy Morency freshly painted the room and it truly has the Valley feel now. A Valley Blue accent wall was also added in the lobby area along with a Valley Collaborative decal. New shelving has also been installed in the curriculum closet - where they will now be able to neatly store their school needs as well as their new and exciting 3D printer. New carpet was installed in the reception area over the winter break. We continue to focus on bridging all Valley communities as we head into the springtime. ■

Honors for Valley Staff, Students

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Valley's presentation, named "Recovering from Malfeasance," included a candid discussion of the history of turning Valley into a "special education school district." Additionally, Valley also presented on the topic of creating "Trauma Informed Schools," which was well received.

In addition to these presenta-

tions, Valley is honored to send four students and two staff to attend the Student Leadership Conference at Walt Disney World June 26-29th 2018.

Valley would like to extend a very special thank you to Enterprise Bank for sponsoring this event for our team as well as of our students and staff to attend the Student Leadership Conference this summer. ■

VALLEY COLLABORATIVE

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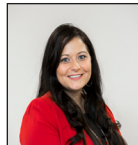
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